

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 RSC-01

( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN:BJD

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

ARA/BC/C:AISAACS

ARA:GLISTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028516

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CI

SUBJECT: INTERVENTION OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: KARKASHIAN/THOMPSON PHONE CALL FEBRUARY 8

1. ON FEBRUARY 7, FATHER LEWERS, PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR OF HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION CALLED COUNTRY DIRECTOR TO SAY THAT CONGREGATION'S PROVINCIAL COUNCIL HAD MET AS SCHEDULED AND HAD DECIDED TO SUBMIT A FURTHER PROPOSAL TO GOC FOR ENDING GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION OF SCHOOL. LEWERS SAID NEW PROPOSAL, WHICH HAD BEEN MAILED TO CHILEAN AMBASSADOR HEITMANN, CALLED FOR SENDING NEW RECTOR TO CHILE FROM THE U.S.; END TO INTERVENTION AND RETURN FULL CONTROL OF SCHOOL TO CONGREGATION; CREATION OF "ADVISORY" COUNCIL WITH GOVERNMENT AND PARENT REPRESENTATIVES; AND ACCEPTANCE IN PART BY CONGREGATION OF GOC INSISTENCE THAT SOME ECCLESIASTICAL AND LAY PERSONNEL BE DISMISSED. LEWERS ACKNOWLEDGED HE DID NOT EXPECT GOC WOULD ACCEPT PROPOSAL, BUT HOPED IT WOULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, OUT OF WHICH ACCEPTABLE FORMULA WOULD EMERGE.

2. LEWERS ASKED IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVED PUBLIC PRESSURE FROM U.S. MEDIA OR VIA CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY WOULD HELP MAKE GOC

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MORE "REASONABLE". HE APPEARED TO ACCEPT OPINION THAT

SUCH ACTION WOULD ONLY AROUSE GOC'S RESENTMENT AND HELP PUSH REASONABLE SOLUTION OUT OF REACH.

3. ON FEBRUARY 8, FATHER WARNER, WHO HAD WORKED AT ST. GEORGE'S, CALLED FROM SOUTH BEND TO SAY CONGREGATION HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT ORDER FOR DETENTION AND EXPULSION AGAINST FATHER ROBERT PLASKER HAD BEEN SIGNED BY INTERIOR MINISTER GEN. BONILLA. WARNER ALSO SAID GOC INTERVENTOR, AIR FORCE COMMANDER VERDUGO, HAD ORDERED ALL KEYS BELONGING TO SCHOOL TO BE TURNED IN BY CONGREGATION MEMBERS AND HAD INSTRUCTED LATTER TO REMOVE ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS FROM PREMISES BY FEBRUARY 18. WARNER SAID EXPULSION ORDER AGAINST PLASKER AND OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY VERDUGO INDICATED GOC MIGHT BE ON VERGE OF FORMALLY EXPROPRIATING SCHOOL PROPERTY.

4. WARNER ALSO SAID CARDINAL SILVA HAD SOUGHT THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT FOR ENDING SCHOOL INTERVENTION ON BASIS OF 30 CONTROL BY CONGREGATION, 30 CONTROL BY CARDINAL'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND REMAINING 40 CONTROL TO BE EXERCISED BY GOC. ACCORDING TO WARNER, CARDINAL'S PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED BY INTERVENTOR.

5. WARNER WAS TOLD ON FEBRUARY 8 THAT IF GOC DECIDED TO EXPROPRIATE SCHOOL PROPERTY, USG INTEREST WOULD RELATE TO WHETHER PROMPT AND ADEQUATE COMPENSATION WERE PAID. WARNER SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN EVENT OF EXPROPRIATION CONGREGATION WOULD NO LONGER FEEL ANY NEED TO AVOID PUBLICIZING THE ISSUES INVOLVED. HE SAID CONGREGATION HAD ONLY WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY RESTRAINED SUPPORTERS IN U.S. WHO WANT TO PUBLICIZE GOC INTERVENTION.

6. WARNER WAS LATER INFORMED THAT HIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN PASSED BY PHONE TO EMBASSY SANTIAGO TOGETHER WITH A REQUEST THAT WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS INTEREST BE EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY ON BEHALF OF AMCIT PLASKER. WARNER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

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7. ASSUME YOU ARE CONTINUING TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND MAKING KNOWN TO APPROPRIATE GOC OFFICIALS THE SERIOUS RAMIFICATIONS IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE OF COURSES OF ACTION THEY MAY BE CONTEMPLATING. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Drafter:** JEKARKASHIAN:BJD  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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